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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE

Letter dated 1 February 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights

Allow me, Mr. Under-Secretary-General, to provide you, and through you the members and observers of the Commission, with some relevant facts on the so-called "Hamas" organization and some of its activities.

1. Hamas, a fundamentalist Islamic organization in the Territories, is a branch of the Muslim brotherhood, which was founded in Egypt in the 1920s.

2. As is well known, Islamic fundamentalist terror is not a phenomenon confined to Israel or to the Arab-Israel conflict. Today it has become a region-wide problem, threatening the stability of Governments in a large number of countries, by attempting to impose its beliefs and way of life by violence rather than through democratic methods.

3. In Israel, the organization was created in its present activist form in the late 1980s. The establishment shortly thereafter of the "Islamic Jihad", a rival organization which preaches violence, propelled Hamas to escalate its own militant activities.

4. The organization's continuing struggle against Israel is inspired by an extremist fanatical ideology. Leaflet No. 65 of Hamas, which was distributed in October 1990, called for the murder of Jews and the burning of their property: "Every Jew is a settler and it is an obligation to kill him and take his property".

5. The Covenant of the Hamas issued on 18 August 1988, is a comprehensive manifesto comprised of 36 articles all of which promote the basic Hamas goal of destroying the State of Israel through "Jihad" (Islamic Holy War).

6. With reference to the rejection of a negotiated peace settlement, article 13 of the Hamas Covenant notes: "Peace initiatives and co-called peaceful solutions and international conferences are in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic resistance movement ... Those conferences are no more than a means to appoint the infidels as arbitrators in the lands of the Islam. ... There is no solution for the Palestinian problem except by Jihad initiatives. International conferences are but a waste of time."

7. Under the flag of Islam, the movement began to direct its activities not only against Israel, but also against the Palestinian nationalistic stream. Hamas operations have targeted every Palestinian who maintains contacts with Israelis. More than 500 "collaborators" have thus been brutally murdered since 1987.

8. We would be grateful if you would circulate this letter together with the annexed list of terrorist activities carried out by the Hamas, as official documents of the forty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

Annex

HAMAS TERRORIST ACTS

Among the worst terrorist attacks perpetrated by the Hamas, the following incidents stand out:

18 February 1989	**Kidnapping and murder of IDF soldier Avi Sasportas.**
4 May 1989	**Kidnapping and murder of IDF soldier Ilan Sa'adon.**
28 July 1990	**Marnie Kimelman, a Canadian tourist, was killed by a bomb on a Tel Aviv beach.**
14 December 1990	**Murder of three workers at an aluminium factory in Jaffa. (One of the murderers was captured and confessed.)**
11 October 1991	**Master Sergeant Aaron Agmon Klijami and Sergeant Shmuel Michaeli were run over and killed at the Tel Hashomer soldiers' hitch-hiking station by a terrorist who deliberately drove a van into a queue of soldiers waiting for lifts. Eleven other soldiers were injured.**

Other attacks

Since 1 March 1992, Hamas activists, most of whom were affiliated with its military wing, Izz al-Din al-Qassam, have perpetrated 11 attacks against Israeli targets. In addition, intelligence sources attributed them with an additional 19 attacks. In these attacks, 11 Israelis were killed and 9 injured.

17 May	**A resident of Moshav Te'ashur, David Cohen, was shot and killed by fugitives from the Izz al-Din al-Qassam gang in the Bet Le'he'ya in the Gaza District.**
24 May	**Helena Rapp, a 15-year-old girl from Bat-Yam was stabbed to death by a Hamas activist from Nuiserat, Gaza District. The murderer was apprehended on the spot.**
27 May	**The rabbi of the Darom village of Gush Katif, Shimon Biran, was stabbed to death by a Hamas activist from Dir el-Balah, Gaza District. The assailant was apprehended. He admitted to affiliation with the Izz al-Din al-Qassam gang.**

22 June	Shots were fired from a speeding car at a police building in the Rimal district of Gaza by fugitives belonging to the Izz al-Din al-Qassam gang. A policeman and an Israeli civilian were injured.
25 June	Moshe Bino from Ashkelon and Ami Zaltzman from Nes Ziona were stabbed to death in their packing house near the Saja'i'a neighbourhood in the Gaza District. The murders were perpetrated by the Izz al-Din al-Qassam gang.
25 June	A resident of Ma'ale Levona was injured while travelling with his family to Jerusalem by an axe-wielding assailant from the village of Sanjiel. The assailant was shot and apprehended.
18 September	IDF soldier, Alon Caravani, was kidnapped by members of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam gang who gave the hitch-hiking soldier a lift in their car. He was stabbed, his personal weapon and documents stolen, and then thrown from the vehicle.
22 September	A border policeman, Avinoam Peretz, was shot and killed at Shoefat junction, French Hill, Jerusalem. The murderer claimed that he had been recruited by the Izz al-Din al-Qassam gang.
21 October	Shots were fired from a speeding car at an IDF vehicle at the southern entrance to Hebron. An IDF soldier and a woman officer were injured. The Izz al-Din al-Qassam gang took credit for the attack.
25 October	Shots were fired from a speeding car at an IDF observation post near the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron. IDF reserve soldier Shmuel Geresh was killed and another soldier wounded. The Izz al-Din al-Qassam gang took credit for the attack.
20 November	Activists from the Izz al-Din al-Qassam gang planned a car-bomb attack in a heavily populated area in the centre of the country. The car was detected in Or Yehuda and, after a chase, the car was stopped and the bomb in it was defused. Two of the terrorists in the car were apprehended and admitted affiliation with the Izz al-Din al-Qassam gang.
7 December	Shots were fired from a speeding car at an IDF vehicle on patrol on the Gaza bypass road, near Saja'i'a junction. The three IDF reserve soldiers in the vehicle were killed. The Izz al-Din al-Qassam gang took credit for the attack.

12 December — Shots were fired at an army Jeep in Hebron. An IDF reserve soldier was killed and two others injured, one of them critically. The Izz al-Din al-Qassam gang took credit for the attack.

13 December — Border policeman Nissim Toledano was kidnapped in Lod on his way from his home to his place of work at Border Police headquarters. A group of fugitives from the Izz al-Din al-Qassam gang took credit for the incident. They demanded the release of Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmad Yasin from prison.